We Who Mourn

by Peter Billam

For six-voice and nine-voice choir

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This edition 23 January 2023.

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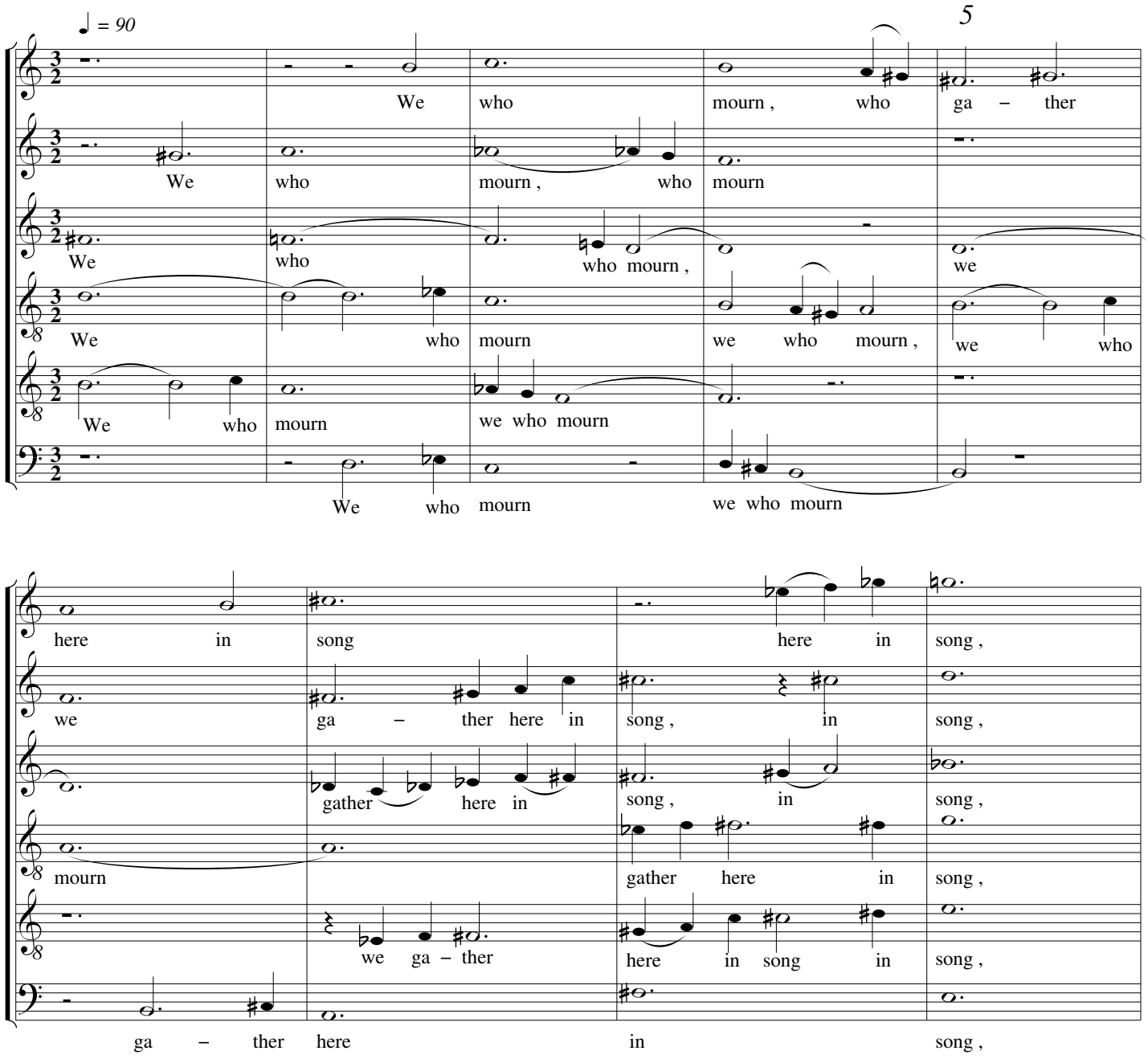
We Who Mourn

Peter Billam

♩ = 90
5
We who mourn , who ga – ther
We who mourn , who mourn
We who who mourn , we
We who mourn we who mourn , we who
We who mourn we who mourn
We who mourn we who mourn
here in song here in song ,
we ga – ther here in song , in song ,
gather here in song , in song ,
mourn gather here in song ,
we ga – ther here in song in song ,
ga – ther here in song ,
10
we ga – ther here to mourn ; All the life of the
we mourn ;
we ga – ther here to mourn ; All the
we ga – ther here to mourn ; All the life ,
we ga – ther here to mourn ; All the
we ga – ther here to mourn ;

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15

world , all the life of the world , all the life of the

All the life of the world ,

life of the world , all the

all the life of all the world , of all the world ,

life of the world , all the life of the world ,

All the life of all the

world , A bil – lion years of sun and

all the leaf and flesh of earth , A

leaf and flesh of earth , a bil – – lion years of

all the leaf and flesh of earth ,

all the leaf and flesh of earth , a bil – lion years of

world , all the leaf and flesh of earth ,

20

breath , a bil – lion years of breath , a bil – lion

bil – lion years of sun and breath ,

sun and breath a bil – lion years of

a bil – lion years of sun and breath , of sun and

sun and breath . a bill – lion years of

A bil – lion years of sun and breath ,

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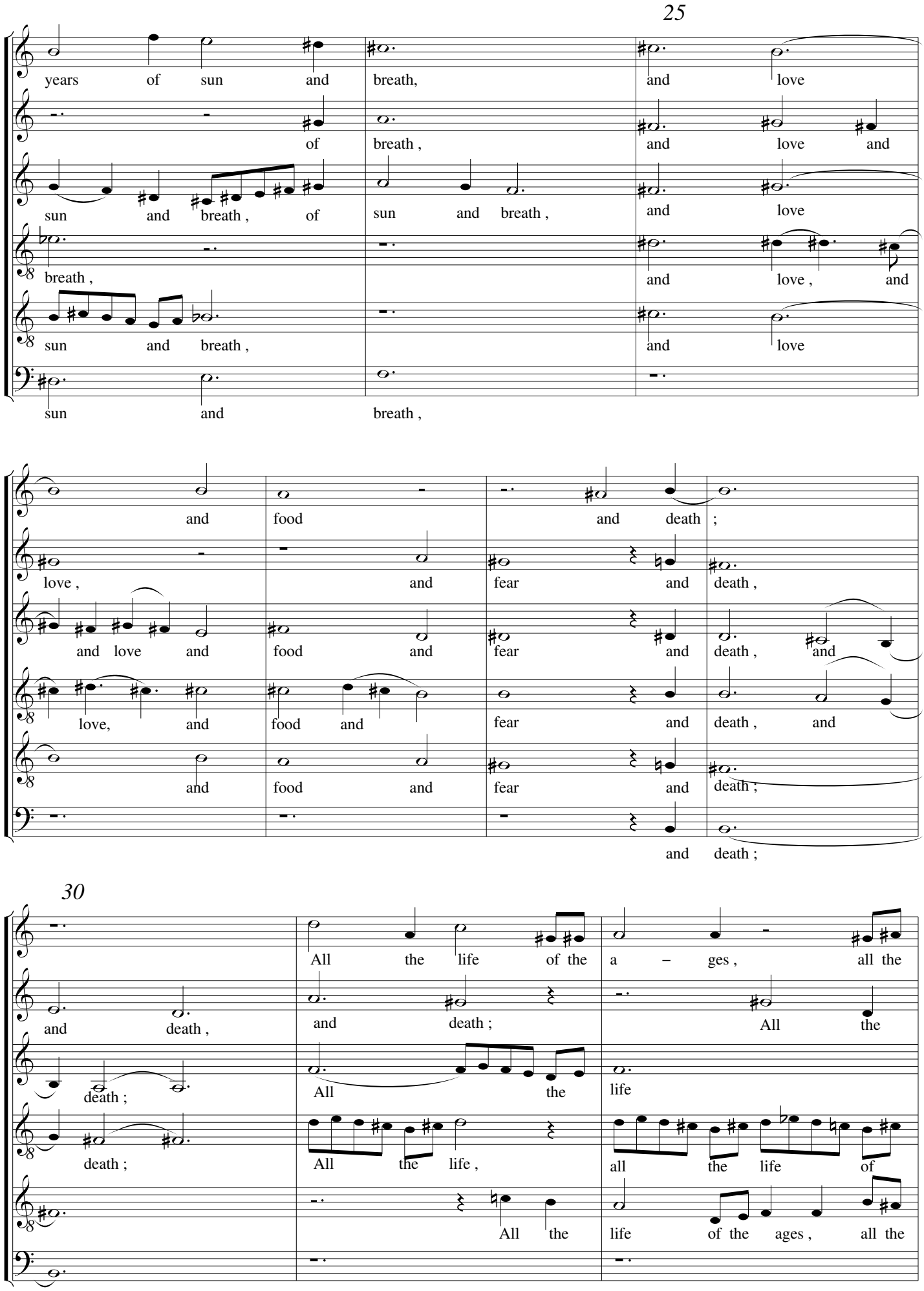
25
years of sun and breath, and love
of breath , and love and
sun and breath , of sun and breath , and love
breath , and love , and
sun and breath , and love
sun and breath ,
and food and death ;
love , and fear and death ,
and love and food and fear and death , and
love, and food and fear and death , and
and food and fear and death ;
and death ;
30
and death , All the life of the a – ges , all the
and death ; All the
death ; All the life
death ; All the life , all the life of
All the life of the ages , all the

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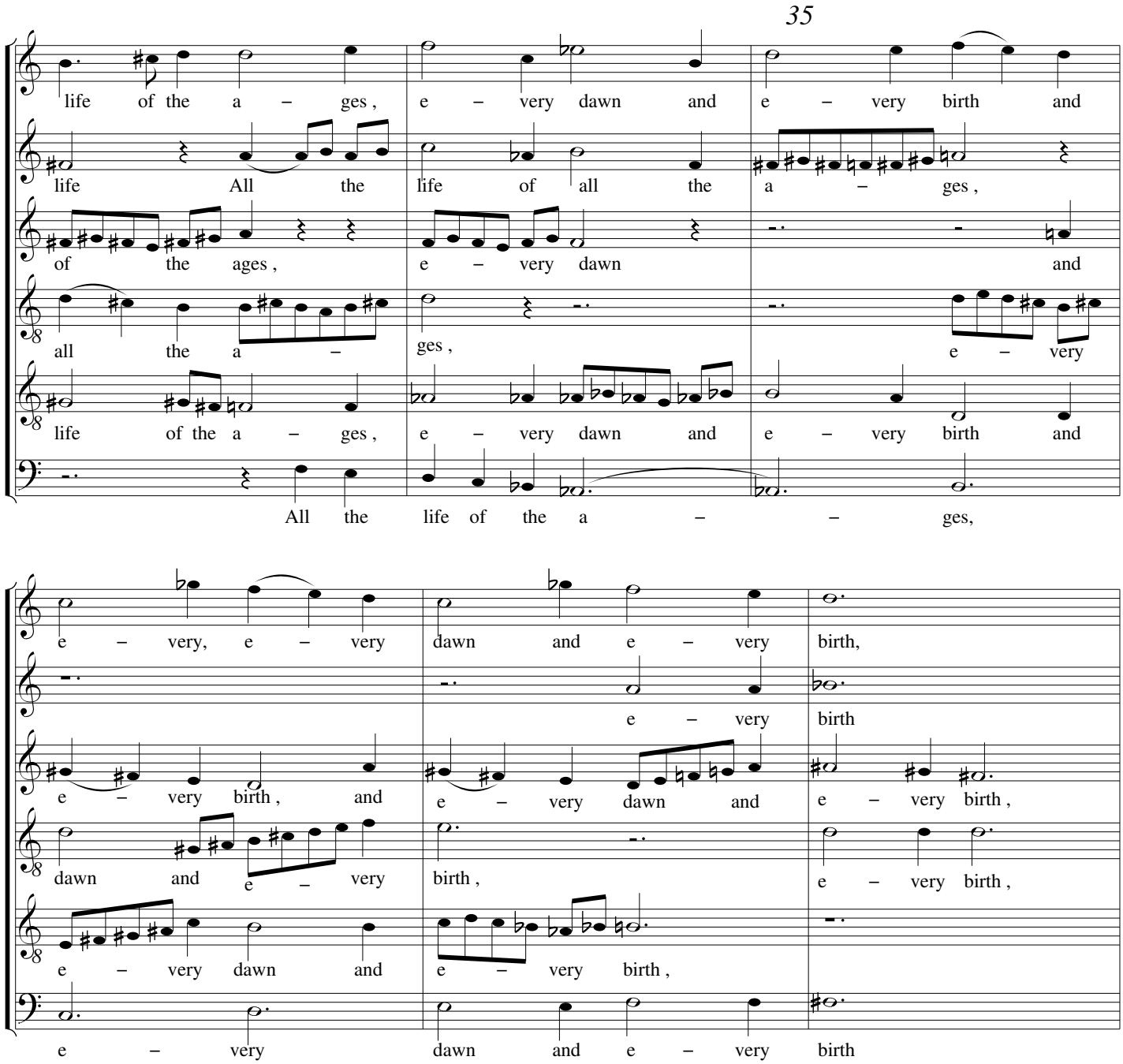
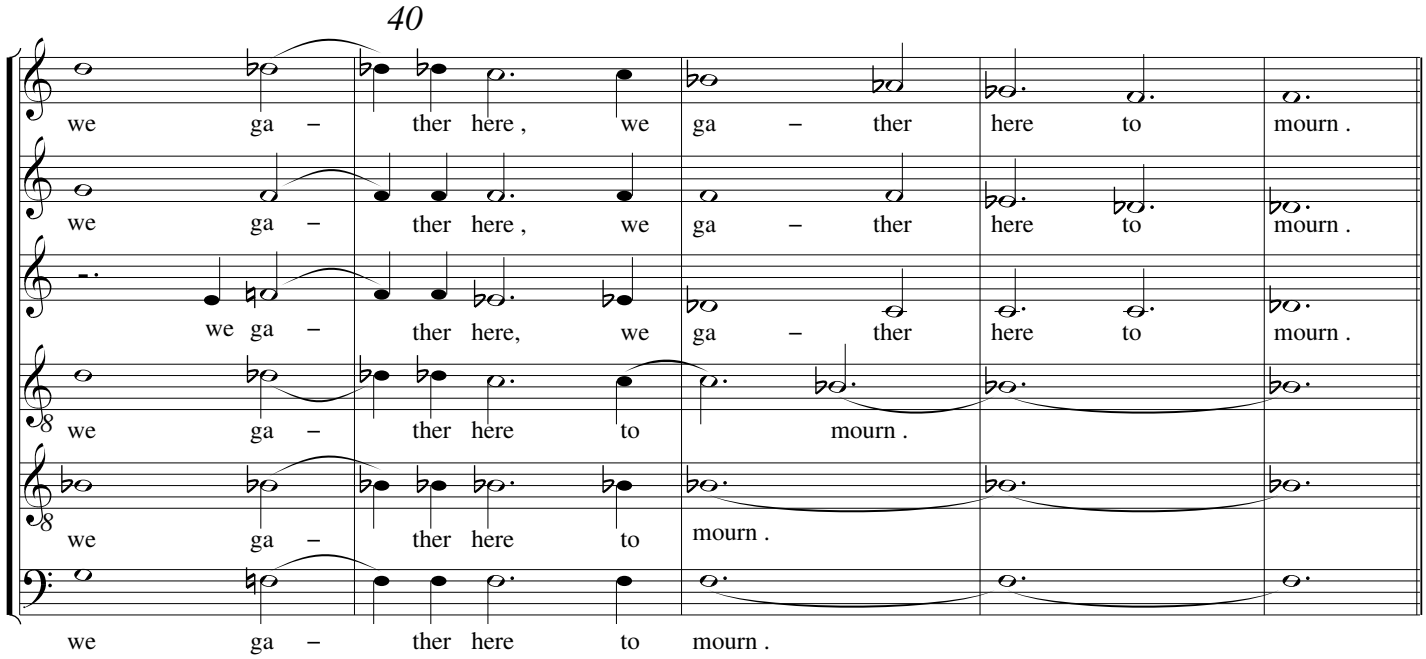

35
life of the a – ges , e – very dawn and e – very birth and
life All the life of all the a – ges ,
of the ages , e – very dawn and
all the a – ges , e – very
life of the a – ges , e – very dawn and e – very birth and
All the life of the a – – ges,
e – very, e – very dawn and e – very birth,
e – very birth
e – very birth , and e – very dawn and e – very birth ,
dawn and e – very birth , e – very birth ,
e – very dawn and e – very birth ,
e – very dawn and e – very birth


40
we ga – ther here , we ga – ther here to mourn .
we ga – ther here , we ga – ther here to mourn .
we ga – ther here, we ga – ther here to mourn .
we ga – ther here to mourn .
we ga – ther here to mourn .
we ga – ther here to mourn .

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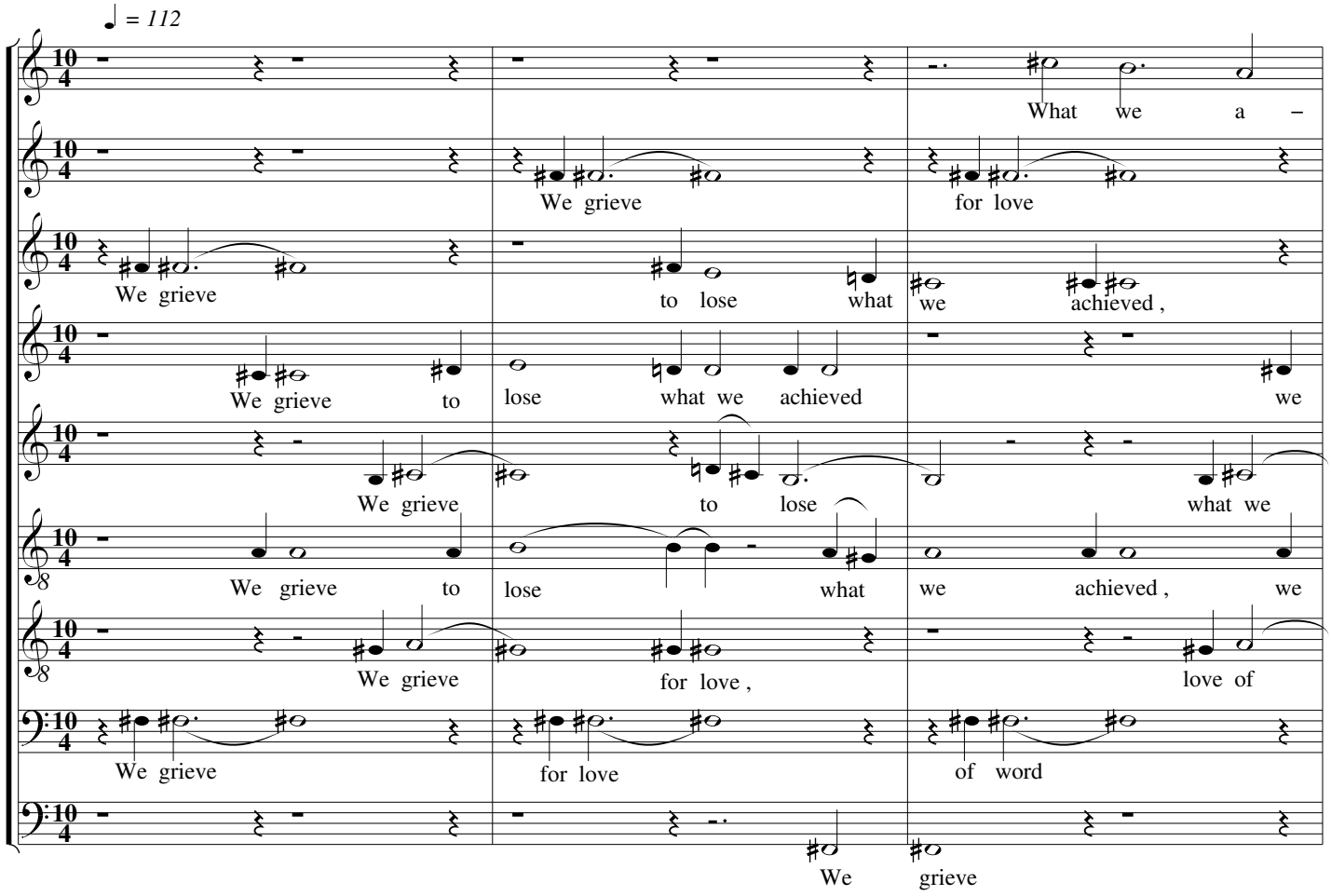
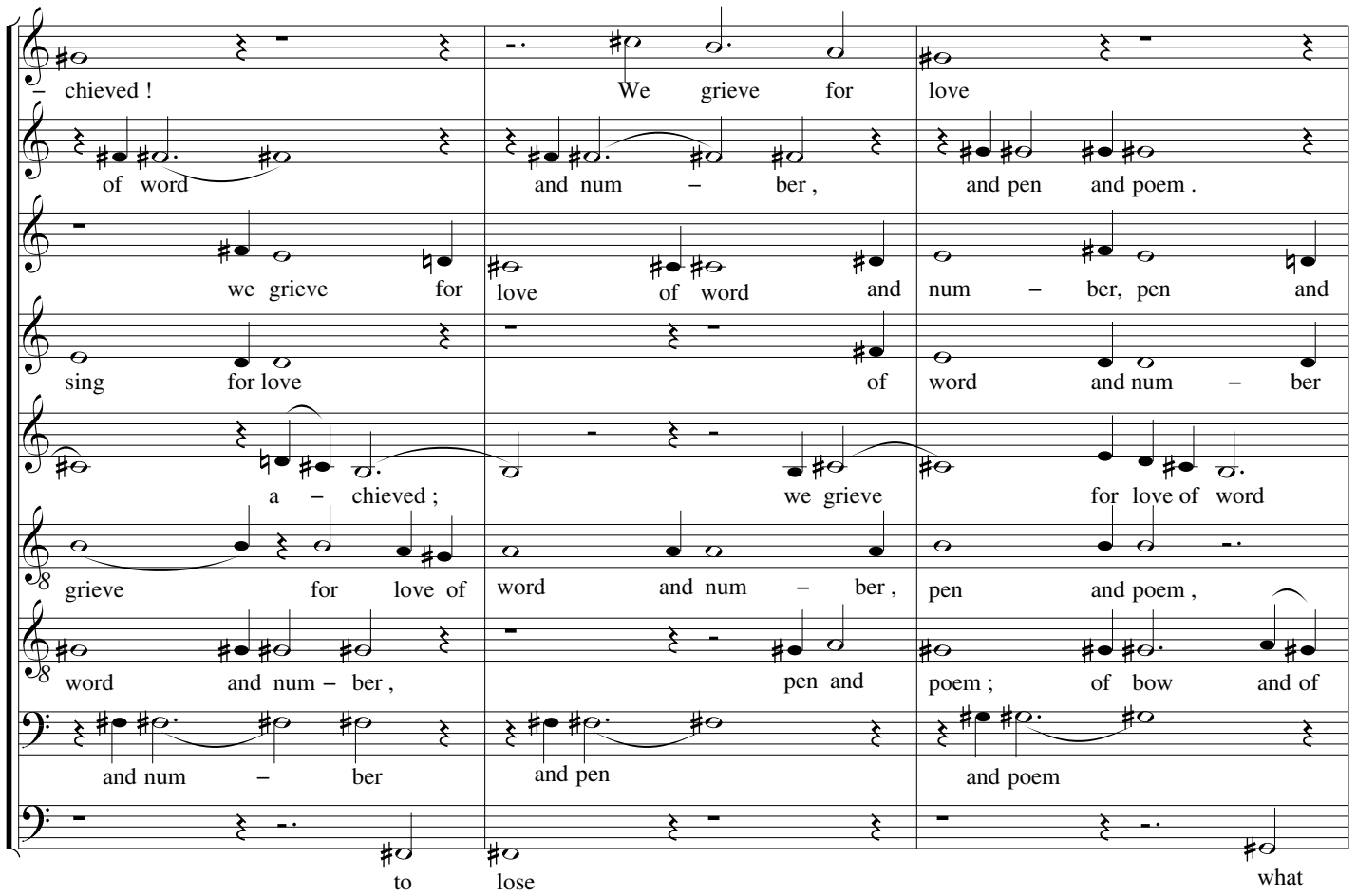
II

5

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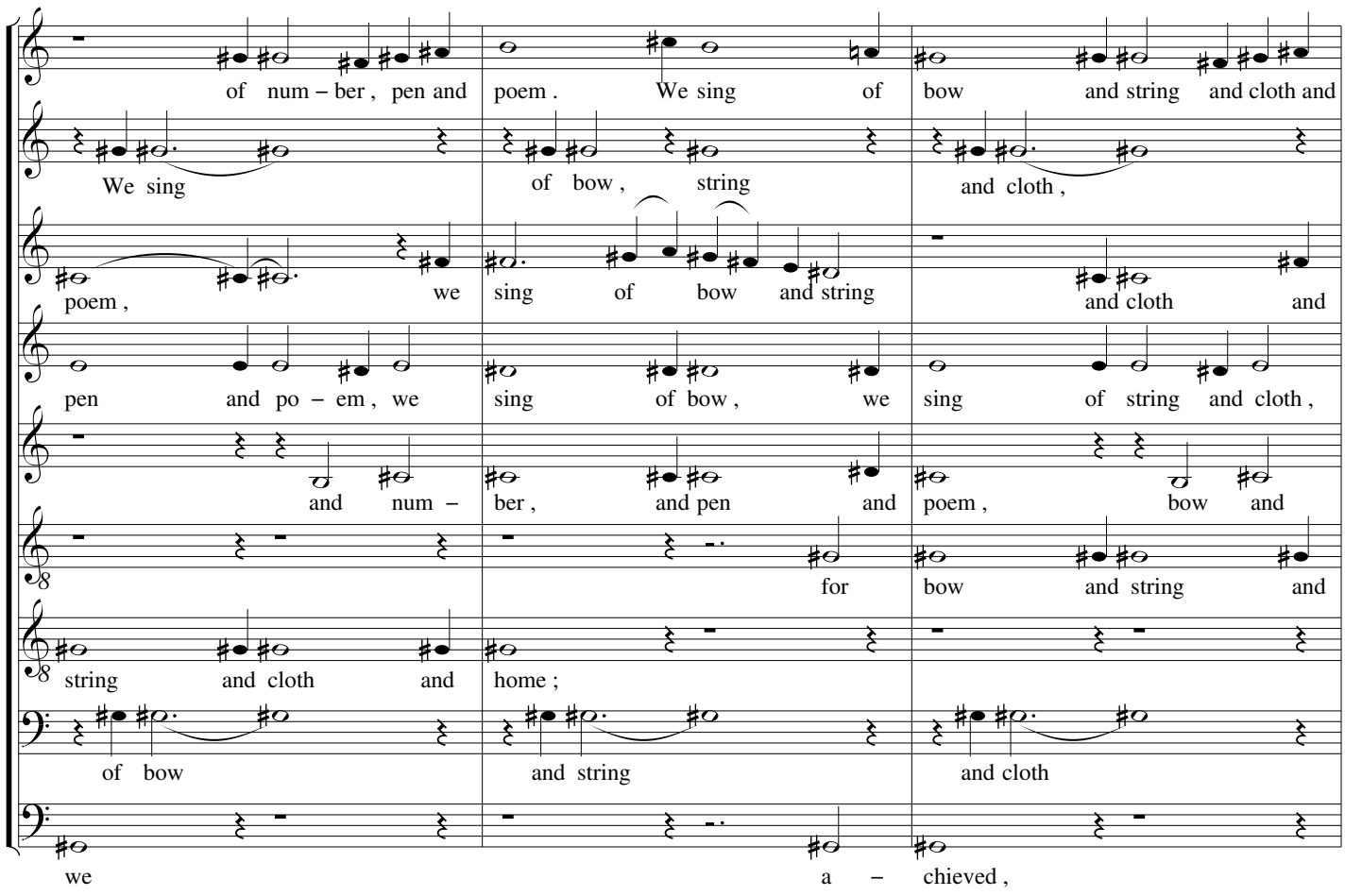
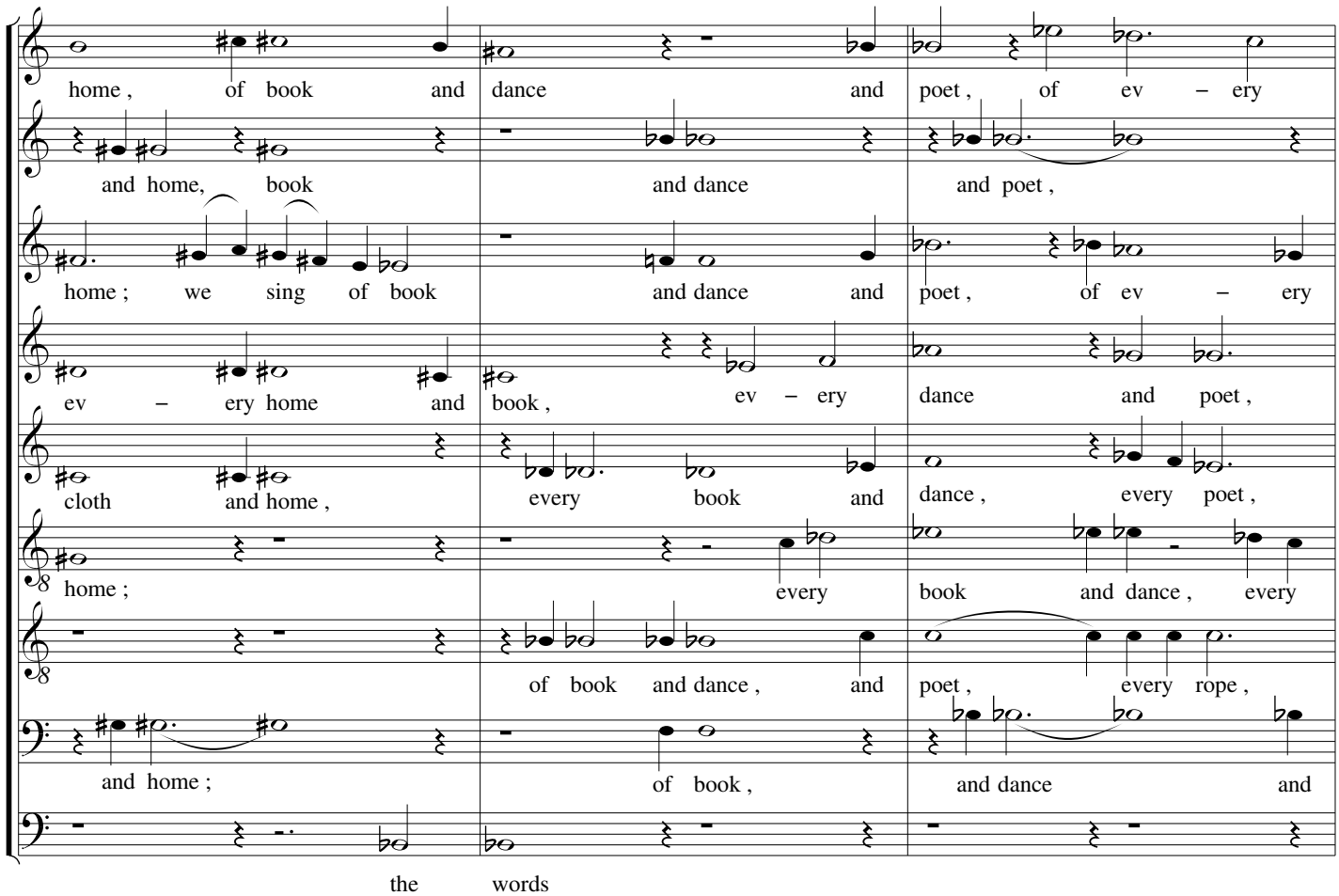

of num – ber , pen and poem . We sing of bow and string and cloth and
We sing of bow , string and cloth ,
poem , we sing of bow and string and cloth and
pen and po – em , we sing of bow , we sing of string and cloth ,
and num – ber , and pen and poem , bow and
for bow and string and
string and cloth and home ;
of bow and string and cloth
we a – chieved ,

10

home , of book and dance and poet , of ev – ery
and home, book and dance and poet ,
home ; we sing of book and dance and poet , of ev – ery
ev – ery home and book , ev – ery dance and poet ,
cloth and home , every book and dance , every poet ,
home ; every book and dance , every
of book and dance , and poet , every rope ,
and home ; of book , and dance and
the words

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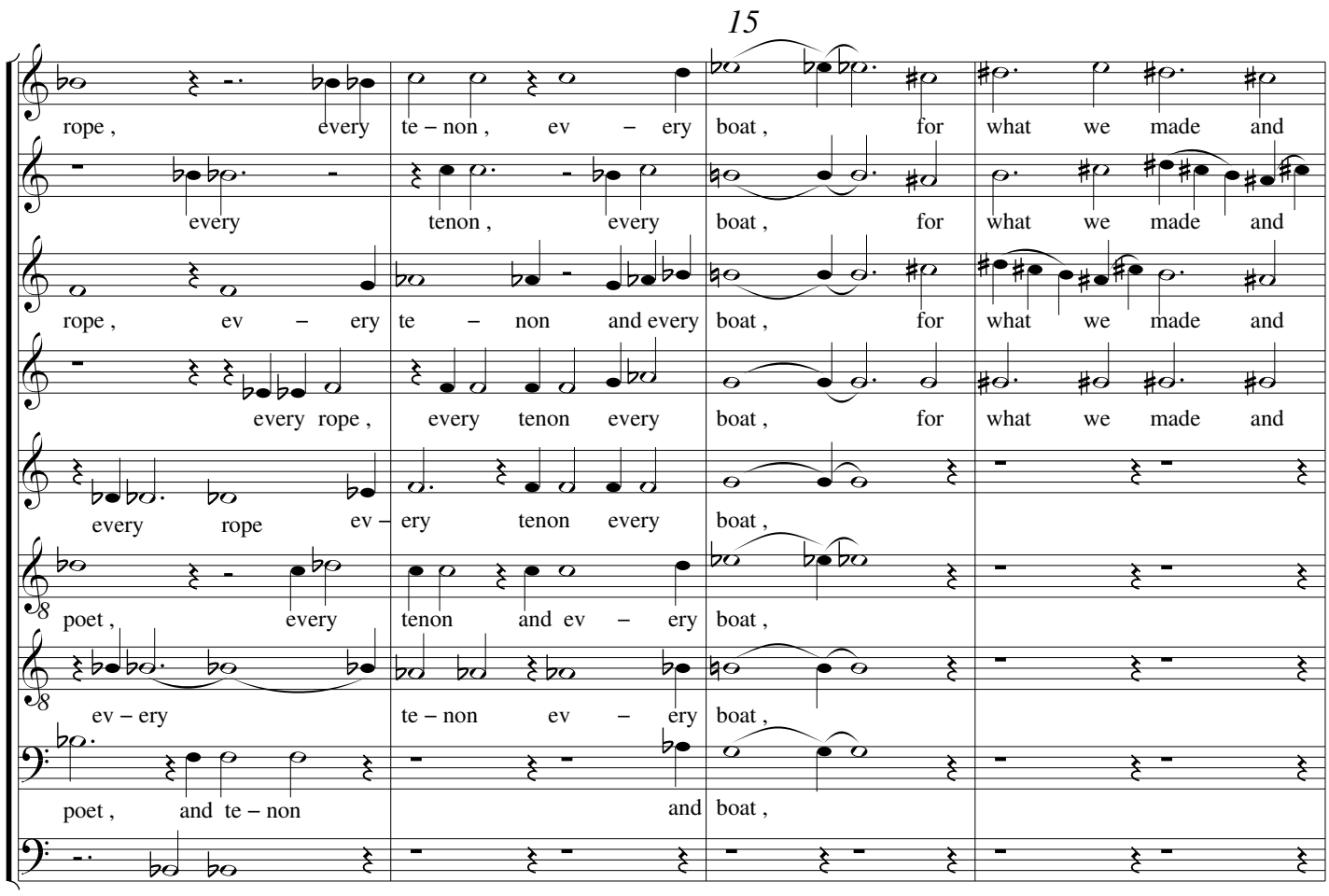
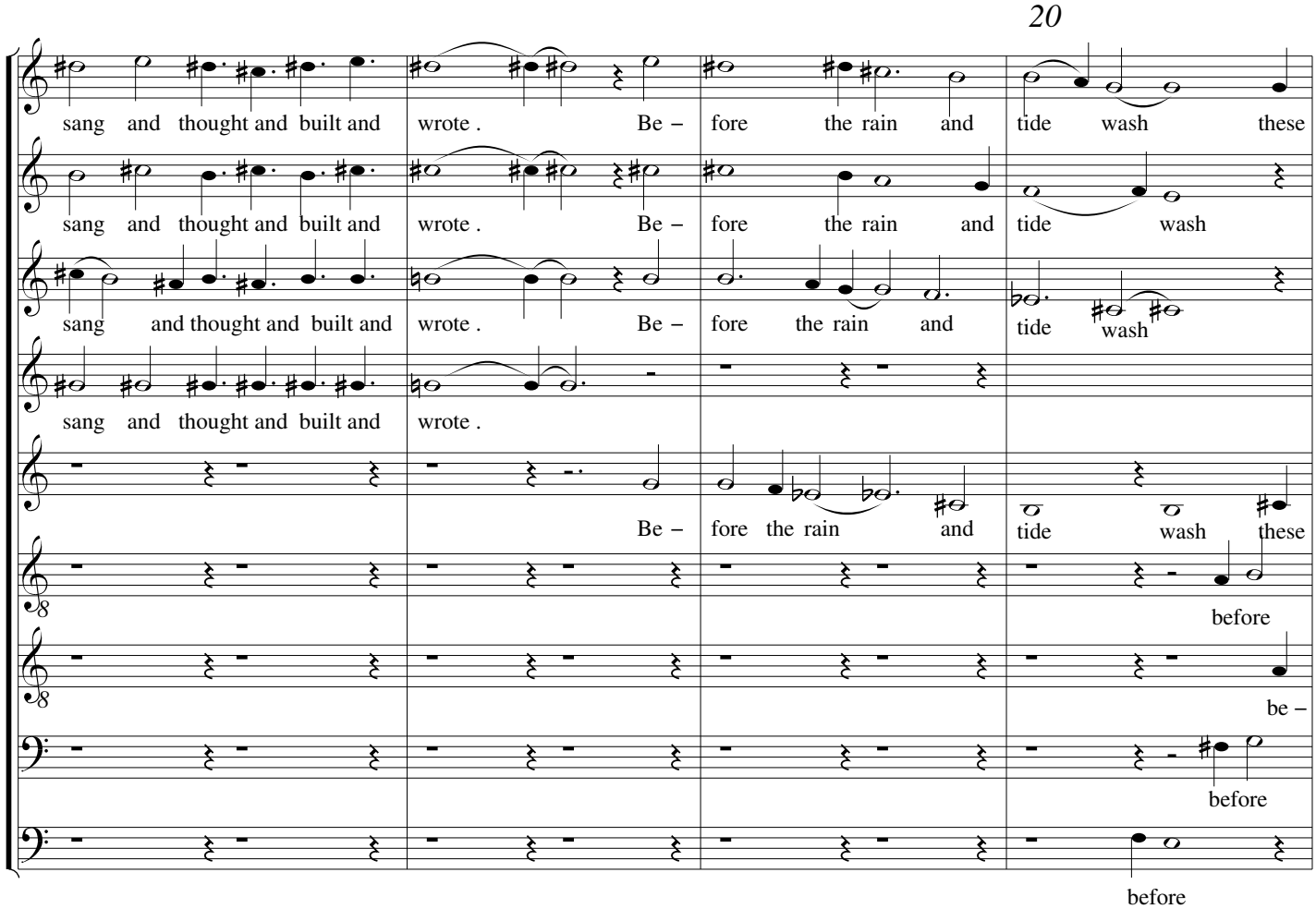

15
rope , every te – non , ev – ery boat , for what we made and
every tenon , every boat , for what we made and
rope , ev – ery te – non and every boat , for what we made and
every rope , every tenon every boat , for what we made and
every rope ev – ery tenon every boat ,
poet , every tenon and ev – ery boat ,
ev – ery te – non ev – ery boat ,
poet , and te – non and boat ,
we wrote ;

20
sang and thought and built and wrote . Be – fore the rain and tide wash these
sang and thought and built and wrote . Be – fore the rain and tide wash
sang and thought and built and wrote . Be – fore the rain and tide wash
sang and thought and built and wrote .
Be – fore the rain and tide wash these
before
be –
before
before

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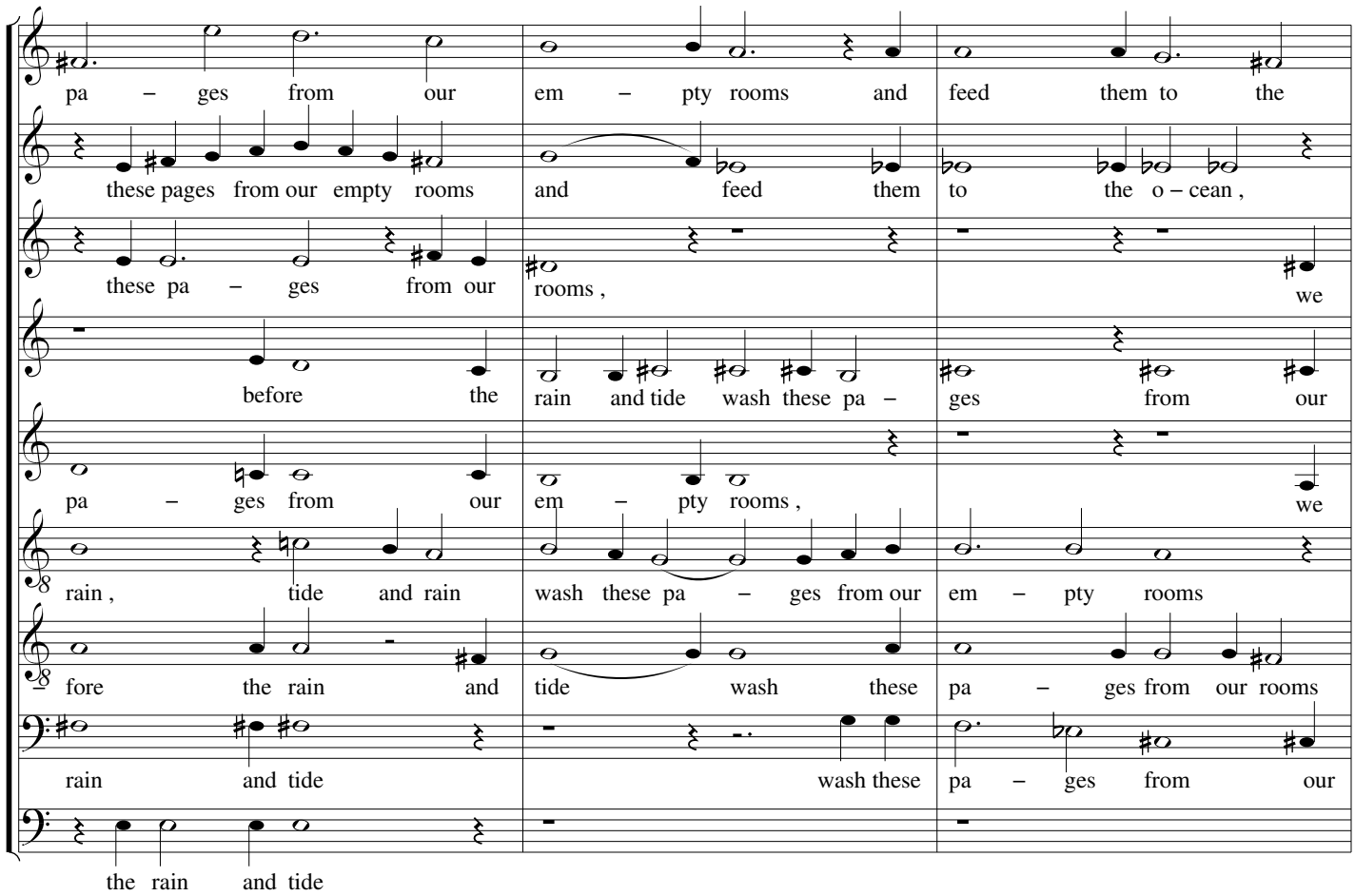
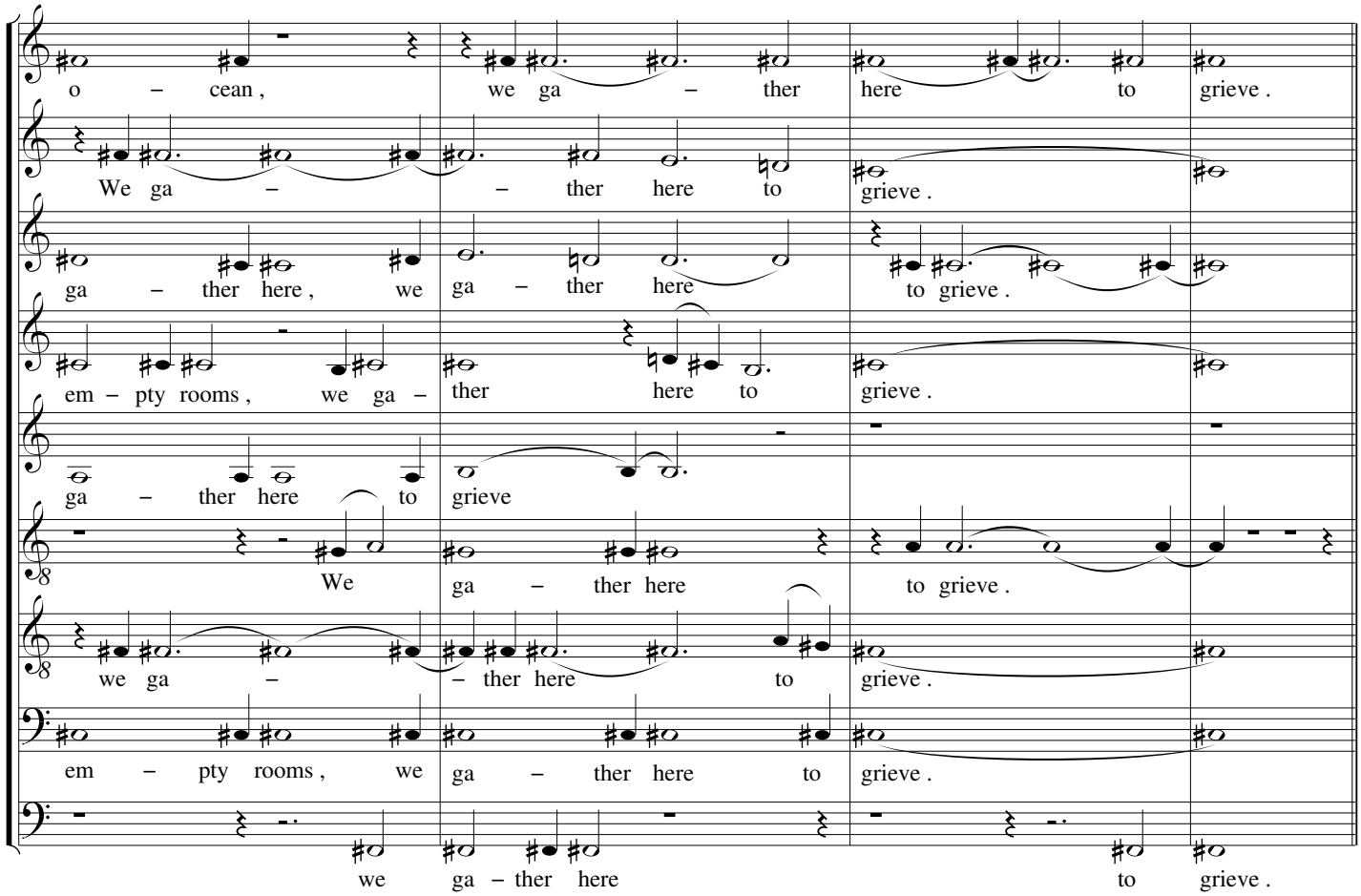

pa – ges from our em – pty rooms and feed them to the
these pages from our empty rooms and feed them to the o – cean ,
these pa – ges from our rooms , we
before the rain and tide wash these pa – ges from our
pa – ges from our em – pty rooms , we
rain , tide and rain wash these pa – ges from our em – pty rooms
fore the rain and tide wash these pa – ges from our rooms
rain and tide wash these pa – ges from our
the rain and tide

25

o – cean , we ga – ther here to grieve .
We ga – – ther here to grieve .
ga – ther here , we ga – ther here to grieve .
em – pty rooms , we ga – ther here to grieve .
ga – ther here to grieve
We ga – ther here to grieve .
we ga – – ther here to grieve .
em – pty rooms , we ga – ther here to grieve .
we ga – ther here to grieve .

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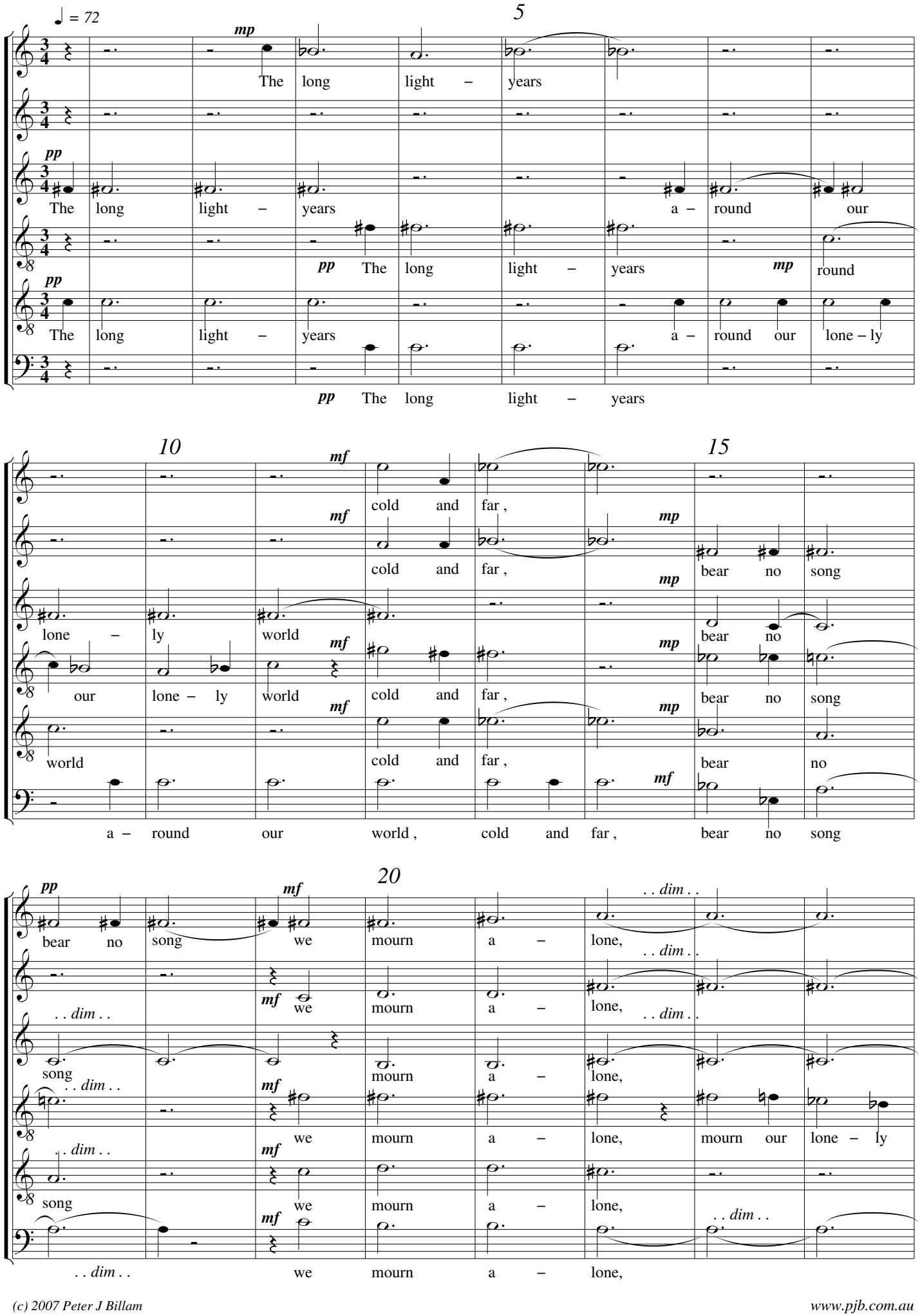
III

♩ = 72
5
10
15
20
mp
The long light – years
pp
The long light – years a – round our
pp
The long light – years mp round
pp
The long light – years a – round our lone – ly
pp
The long light – years
mf
cold and far ,
mp
bear no song
lone – ly world
our lone – ly world
world
a – round our world , cold and far , bear no song
. . dim . .
bear no song we mourn a – lone,
we mourn a – lone, mourn our lone – ly
song
. . dim . . we mourn a – lone,

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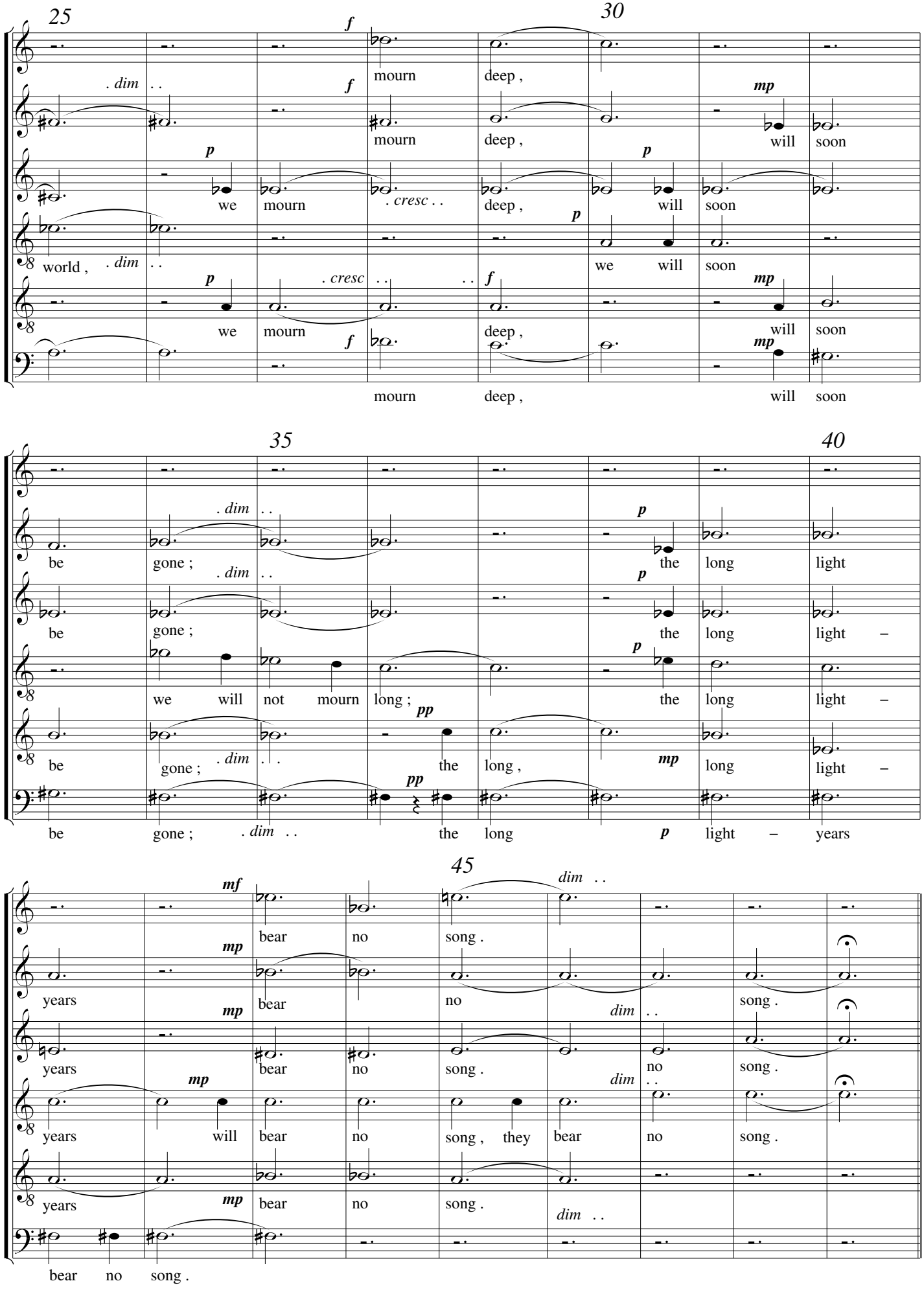
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Peter Billam was born in London in 1948, studied piano, and lived in Switzerland from 1973 to 1983, where he studied composition, classical guitar, flute and voice, worked as Musical Director of the *Théâtre Populaire Romand*, and as recording engineer, record producer and computer programmer. He moved to Tasmania in 1983, and lectured in composition at the Conservatorium. He founded **pjb.com.au**, becoming the first composer to sell scores on-line, taking scores from Composer to Performer in one immediate step. *pjb.com.au* offers a new approach to music publishing. These pieces are **written to be read, made to be played !**

Compositions at *www.pjb.com.au* include: *Five Short Pieces*, guitar, 1979; *Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute and guitar, 1980; *De Profundis* and *Nacht*, on poems by Lama Anagarika Govinda, voice and piano, 1980; *Fünf Bagatellen*, piano, 1980; *Sadhana*, wind and brass ensemble, 1980; *Concert Study*, piano four hands, 1980; *Five Rounds*, choir, 1986; *Go Forth and Multiply*, choir, 1986; *Three Violin Duets*, 1987; *Fable*, for piano, 1987; *To Erich Jantsch*, SAATTB recorders, 1988; *A Suite of Curves*, trombone (or horn) and piano, 1990; *Two Recorder Duets*, alto recorders, or other melody instruments, 1991; *Trombone Quintet*, trombone, flute, piano, bass, and percussion, 1994; *Three Songs*, on poems by Jack Kerouac, Vikram Seth and Dylan Thomas, voice and piano (only the first and third of these are available), 1994; *Piano Study*, piano, 1994; *Four Dances*, various ensembles including recorder quartet, string quartet, 1995; *The Poet in the Clouds*, on a poem by S. T. Coleridge, SATB choir, 1995; *Tres Casidas del Diván del Tamarit*, on poems by Federico García Lorca, voice and piano, 1997; *Three Suites*, for the solo line, piano, and piano and a solo line, 2000; *Die Zeiten*, on poems by Kästner, Bachman and Jünger, choir (only the second and third of these are available), 2000; *Three Duets* for flutes, 2001; *For Four Hands* for piano four hands, 2002; *Three Preludes* for piano, 2003; *Second Solo Suite* for flute, violin, viola or cello, 2003; *Guitar Duet* for two guitars, 2006; *We Who Mourn* for choir, 2007; *Trio With Guitar* for guitar and two clarinets or two recorders or two violas, 2008; *Canons* for two- and four-hand piano, 2009; *Flute Trio*, 2012; *Twenty Studies* for piano, 2013-14; *Music for Strings* and *Two Encores for Strings* for 2vln, 2vla, 2vlc, 2015; *Album for Choir*, 2015; *Eight Pieces for Guitar*, 2017.

Arrangements include: By J. S. Bach: *Trio BWV 655*, piano and flute; *Vor deinen Thron BWV 668*, piano; *Fugue in F minor BWV 689*, SATB recorders; *Four Duets BWV 802-5*, keyboard; *Six Preludes and Fugues* from Book I, keyboard; *Flute Sonata BWV 1031* in G major for alto recorder and keyboard; *Flute Sonata BWV 1032* completed by Peter Billam for flute and keyboard, also in C major for alto recorder, and in G major for descant; *Ricercare a 3 of the Musikalisches Opfer* for keyboard; *Ricercare a 6*, for sSATBG recorders, or strings, or two keyboards; and *Fuga Canonica*; from the *Art of Fugue*: *Contrapuncti 1*, *4* and *9* for keyboard, and *Contrapunctus 14* as completed by D. F. Tovey, for keyboard, or for SATB recorders, or for strings; *Passacaglia and Fugue in c* for piano four hands; *Chorales with Descant* for melody instrument and piano; *Cello Suites I*, *II* and *III* for flute or alto recorder, *Forty Chorales* for piano, *Der Geist hilft* for SATB-SATB recorders. By Bartók: *Suite op.14* for piano. By Brahms: *Fugue in Ab minor for organ*, for SATB recorders and gamba, in A minor; *Choralvorspiele for organ* plus settings by Isaac, Bach, Praetorius, recorders. *John Carr, Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute or recorder and guitar. Franz Liszt, *Late piano pieces*, G.F. Händel: *Concerto Grosso in A minor* op 6 no 4, harpsichord and recorders; *Recorder Sonata in Bb* no 5, in G for tenor recorder and keyboard. Claudio Monteverdi, *Ecco Mormorar l'Onde*, SSATB recorders. Arnold Schoenberg: *Verklärte Nacht* for piano. Franz Schubert: *Four Songs*, voice and guitar; *Dances*, recorders and guitar, *Dances*, piano 4 hands. Scriabin, *Two Preludes op.67; Five Preludes op.74*, piano. Telemann, *Twelve Flute Fantasias* and *Six Duets*, recorder. Wilbye, *Draw on sweet Night*, SSATTB recorders, and for flute choir. *Twelve Italian Songs* and *Seven English Songs*, voice and guitar; *Folk Guitar Solos*; *Fourteen Folk Dance Tunes*, recorder and guitar; *Bushband Dances*, violin, accordeon and banjo; *Easy Classical Pieces*, Bb trumpet and piano; *Famous Beginnings*, for piano.

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